

In the Claims:

Please add the following claim 15 and cancel claims 8 to 14 without prejudice:

15. A combination preparation for contraception comprising from 2 to 4 first stage daily dosage portions, each of said first stage daily dosage portions containing an effective amount of at least one natural estrogen as sole active ingredient; from 16 to 22 second stage daily dosage portions, each of said second stage daily dosage portions containing an effective amount of a combination of at least one natural estrogen and at least one natural or synthetic gestogen as active ingredient; from 2 to 4 third stage daily dosage portions, each of said third stage daily dosage portions containing an effective amount of at least one natural estrogen as sole active ingredient; and from 2 to 4 additional stage daily dosage portions, each of said additional stage daily dosage portions containing a pharmaceutically acceptable placebo;

wherein said at least one natural estrogen is selected from the group consisting of estradiol, estradiol compounds metabolized to said estradiol in the body, conjugated equine estrogens and phytoestrogens; and

wherein said at least one natural or synthetic gestogen is selected from the group consisting of natural progesterone, desogestrel, dienogest, gestoden, levonorgestrel, chlormadinone acetate and medroxyprogesterone.